

operation of said selective display designating means.

2. A drawing management and display device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said sub-drawings includes all of the information items which make up said same area of said system drawing.

3. A drawing management and display device according to claim 1, wherein all of said sub-drawings show said information items with the same magnification.

4. A drawing management and display device according to claim 1, wherein each of the sub-drawings shows infor- 10 mation items of a different type from the information items shown on all sub-drawings of a lower priority.

5. A drawing management and display device according to claim 4, wherein the ability to display a sub-drawing within a desired display time is determined by the number 15 and type of information items included in the sub-drawing.

6. A drawing management and display device according to claim 1, wherein said entire system is a gas/water supply pipe-laying system.

7. A drawing management and display device according 20 to claim 1, wherein said entire system is an electric power/ telephone wiring system.

8. A drawing management and display device according to claim 1, wherein said entire system is a machine designating system.

9. A drawing management and display device according to claim 1, wherein said entire system is a road traffic information map.

10. A drawing management and display device according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of sub-drawings which 30 represent the same area of said system drawing include at least three sub-drawings.

11. A drawing management and display device (according to claim 1, wherein said fombrising a displaying means which includes a means for displaying a three-dimensional retrieval icon for respective subdrawings, the amount of data in a respective sub-drawing being indicated by a dimension of each respective displayed retrieval lcon.

12. A drawing management and display device accordingto claim 1, wherein said selective display designating means 40 includes a means for storing a table of values including indicators of respective areas of said system drawing and a priority designated for each respective area, and further including a means responsive to an indicator of an area of said system drawing for selecting a sub-drawing of that area 45 designated by the priority in said table of values.

13. A drawing management and display device according to claim 12, further including a input means for editing said table of values to change the priority designated for a respective area of said system drawing.

14. A drawing management and display device for managing divided facility drawings having the same magnification of an entire facility as digital information, said drawing management and display device comprising:

a first means for referencing a total display time for 55 displaying said system drawing, for determining a plurality of different display time priority levels each having a different display time which is shorter than said total display time, and for storing divided facility drawings with respective priorities each of which represents an ability to display a desired facility drawing within a different said different display time when combining at least selected ones of features of said divided facility drawings;

a drawing inputting means for editing said divided facility 65 drawings stored in said first means:





- a data inputting means for inputting attribute information to be stored in the first means;
- a second means for temporarily storing said divided facility drawings stored in said first means and temporarily storing said divided facility drawings given from said drawing inputting means; and
 - a means for displaying said divided facility drawings stored in said second means and said attribute information.
- 10 15. An image data display method comprising a step of:
 displaying on a display screen, a respective predetermined
 three-dimensional shape to represent each image of a drawing
 to be displayed such that a data amount of said image is
 represented by a length in a predetermined one-dimensional
 direction of said three-dimensional shape, wherein images
 belonging to a same predetermined group are each displayed on
 the display screen in the form of the predetermined threedimensional shape and in a form of an icon in such a manner
 that an accumulated data amount of said images belonging to the
 same predetermined group is represented by an accumulated
 length in the predetermined one-dimensional direction.
 - 16. An image data display method according to claim 15, wherein the three-dimensional shape is a rectangular parallelepiped or a cube.
- 25 17. An image data display method according to claim 15, wherein the predetermined one-dimensional direction of said predetermined three-dimensional shape is a direction at least partially in a depth of the display.
- 18. An image data display method according to claim 15, wherein the icon is more particularly an icon for retrieving the images belong to the same predetermined group.
- 19. An image data display method comprising the step of:
 displaying on a display screen, a predetermined threedimensional shape and icon to represent images belonging to a
 same predetermined group of a drawing to be displayed, such
 that an accumulated data amount of said images belonging to the
 same predetermined group is represented by an accumulated
 length in a predetermined one-dimensional direction of said
 three-dimensional shape.
- displaying on a display screen, a respective predetermined three-dimensional shape and icon to represent images belonging to different predetermined groups of a drawing to be displayed, such that an accumulated data amount of said images belonging to a same predetermined group is represented by an accumulated length in a predetermined one-dimensional direction of said three-dimensional shape associated with said same predetermined group, and such that the respective predetermined three-dimensional shapes and icons for said different predetermined groups are displayed separately on said display screen.
 - 21. An image data display method according to claim 20, wherein the respective predetermined three-dimensional shapes and icons for said different predetermined groups are more specifically displayed separately in a second one-dimensional direction which is different from said predetermined one-dimensional direction.
 - 22. An image data display apparatus comprising:
- an image data amount calculation unit which obtains an accumulated data amount for images belonging to a same predetermined group; and
 - an icon three-dimensional display processing unit which displays on a display screen, a respective predetermined three-dimensional shape to represent each image of a drawing to be displayed such that a data amount of said image is represented by a length in a predetermined one-dimensional direction of said three-dimensional shape, wherein images belonging to the same

predetermined group are each displayed on the display screen in the form of the predetermined three-dimensional shape and in a form of an icon in such a manner that an accumulated data amount of said images belonging to the same predetermined group is represented by an accumulated length in the predetermined one-dimensional direction.

- 23. An image data display apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said icon three-dimensional display processing unit displays the icon in a shape of a rectangular parallelepiped or a cube.
- 24. An image data display apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the predetermined one-dimensional direction of said predetermined three-dimensional shape is a direction at least partially in a depth of the display.
- 15 25. An image data display apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the icon is more particularly an icon for retrieving the images belong to the same predetermined group.
- 26. A drawing management and display device for displaying digital information of a system drawing, showing an entire system having a plurality of information items, within a desired display time, said drawing management and display device comprising:
- a means for referencing a total display time required for displaying said system drawing, for determining a plurality of different display time priority levels each having a different display time which is shorter than said total display time, and for storing said system drawing as a plurality of sub-drawings each representing the same area of said system drawing and having a different number of said plurality of information items which make up said entire system such that display of each of said sub-drawings is accomplished within a different said different display time, said sub-drawings being stored with respective priorities each of which represents an ability to display the sub-drawing within a different said different display time;
 - a selective display designating means for automatically selecting one of said sub-drawings stored in the storing means on the basis of the priority thereof in order to accomplish display within said desired display time; and
- 40 a means for displaying selected said sub-drawings within said desired display time in response to said selecting operation of said selective display designating means;
 - wherein said displaying means includes a means for displaying
 a three-dimensional retrieval icon for respective sub-drawings,
- 45 the amount of data in a respective sub-drawing being indicated by a dimension of each respective displayed retrieval icon.

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